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I shall leave here for Roma to-morrow, thence to Rio Grande City. I find it impossible to make more than 20 miles a day with my present teams. We expect to reach Rio Grande City by the 20th.

I am very much indebted to Mr. Emanuel Feuille, deputy collector of customs, as also Mr. Jack Thatcher, of the custom-house, for courtesies extended to us in Zapata.

Conditions at Rio Grande City—Proposed inspection service at certain ferries on the Rio Grande.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Dashiell reports, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, as follows:

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEX., *June 24, 1904.*

SIR: I inclose herewith a rough tracing of the Rio Grande within the limits of Starr County, showing thereon some of the most important towns and ranches on both sides of the river.

It will be quite a difficult matter to keep a watch on all these places, although I am assured by the deputy collector of customs that he can concentrate these boats at certain specified points—for instance, Salineño ranch, Roma, Rio Grande City, La Grulla—and can prohibit all the unlicensed boats from carrying passengers.

There are numerous ranches and small settlements along the river, scattered throughout the territory.

On account of the number of small settlements it would be difficult to prevent ingress of infected subjects, unless the crossing of the river were absolutely prohibited, except at certain points where the inspectors are placed.

I have not been to Camargo as yet, and will not visit that place until next week, owing to the absence of the mayor of that town.

Rio Grande City is watered by cisterns for the well-to-do and by river water, in barrels, for the poorer classes.

I have seen many mosquitoes, among which were *stegomyia*, although I have been unable to locate any wigglers in the few barrels and two cisterns that I have inspected.

The river at this point on the United States side is separated from the high bank by about 500 yards width of overflow ground, produced by change in the course of the river. This overflow ground is thickly covered with rank vegetation, including some corn and other farm products, and is studded with numerous pools of water—some as much as one-quarter acre in extent—and their edges rank with vegetation. The town is far from clean, and the high bank of the river seems to be a favorite place for dumping manure and other refuse.

While I have been unable to locate any wigglers in the water barrels, I am sure there must be quite a number of them in this locality.

I shall investigate and report as to the possibility of sanitating the pools along the river front, although I do not think any action advisable, as it is very nearly time for the river to rise, when the high water will obviate any necessity for oiling.

It will not be possible to obtain mortuary statistics, except from the unofficial sources, as the authorities have kept no records on this side of the river. Two of the doctors, however, have promised to keep

me informed. There are two other physicians whom I have not as yet seen. There is, however, no sickness here at the present time.

Vaccination seems to have been neglected here.

I wish to be advised how far the various grading and track gangs of the Matamoros extension of the National Railroad are from this point, so that I may form some idea as to when to look out for that undesirable element that is sure to come with them.

Next week I hope to be able to give some definite report as to Rio Grande City and Camargo.

JULY 7, 1904.

Mr. Maris, collector of customs at Brownsville, arrived here this morning, and after conference he says that to station inspectors at Salineño, Rio Grande, and at a point opposite San Miguel, he will have to get special authority from the Department. The regular inspector at Roma can attend to the work at that point. He will wire for authority to-day and will let me know the result, of which I shall advise you immediately.

I should like to have some specific instructions from you to give these inspectors.

I have met the county authorities, and they have agreed to lend me such help as will be necessary, in the way of inspectors and laborers, to clean up the streets and destroy the mosquitoes. This action will be officially and formally taken by them at a regular meeting of the county commissioners to-day.

As soon as the work is well under way here, I shall be in position to do the same thing in all the towns and ranches along the river in this section.

House-to-house inspection—Sanitary measures adopted.

JULY 18, 1904.

In company with the sheriff, county physician, and an inspector appointed by the county authorities, I have just completed a house-to-house inspection of this town.

The local authorities have ordered all premises cleaned and the removal of all hogs from the town limits. Special locations have been designated for the dumping of garbage on the northwestern side of the town. The prevailing winds are from the southeast.

As Rio Grande City is not an incorporated town, there are no sanitary regulations and there is no scavenger service; but the authorities are now arranging for scavenger carts, under the control of the county health officer, to carry on the work by individual contract with the inhabitants.

The following rule has been established in regard to water barrels: No water is to remain in barrel over forty eight hours, and no new water is to be put in until barrel is thoroughly cleaned and dried (mouth downward) for at least half an hour. This regulation will be enforced by inspectors among the water carriers. All cisterns have been oiled, a pint of oil being used for each cistern. Many owners of cisterns have ordered pumps and covers for their cisterns, which will render oiling unnecessary.